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INFORMATION SERVICE

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SPANISH FREIGHTER INCIDENT

HAVANA IN ENGLISH TO EUROPE 2010 16 SEP 64 E

(NEWS COMMENTARY: "MURDER ON THE HIGH SEAS")

(TEXT) EVERY DAY DURING OUR NEWSCAST WE READ WHAT IS KNOWN AS FIDEL'S FIVE POINTS--THE FIVE BASIC CONDITIONS RAISED BY THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT DURING THE OCTOBER CRISIS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE PEACE WITH DIGNITY IN THE CARIBBEAN. POINT NUMBER THREE CALLS FOR AN END TO ALL PIRATE ATTACKS CARRIED OUT FROM BASES IN THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO. THAT IS ONE OF THE BASIC CONDITIONS FOR PEACE IN THE CARIBBEAN. HOWEVER, MANY OF OUR LISTENERS DO NOT QUITE UNDERSTAND HOW WE CAN TALK ABOUT PIRATE ATTACKS IN THE 20TH CENTURY.

IN OUR NEWS PROGRAM TODAY WE HAVE EXTENSIVELY REPORTED ON THE COWARDLY ATTACK ON A FREIGHTER BOUND FOR CUBA BY MERCENARIES IN THE SERVICE OF THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. THE CAPTAIN AND TWO OFFICERS WERE KILLED, THE SHIP WAS SET ON FIRE, AND THE REST OF THE CREW HAD TO ABANDON SHIP. BUT THERE IS MORE TO THE WHOLE INCIDENT THAN WHAT APPEARS ON THE SURFACE. LET US ANALYZE THIS NEW ACT OF PIRACY STEP BY STEP.

ON MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER, AT EXACTLY 1900 HOURS EASTERN STANDARD TIME, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING NEWS DISPATCH, DATED LINE PANAMA: A CUBAN EXILE SOURCE SAID TODAY THAT ANTI-CASTRO COMMANDOS ATTACKED A SHIP LAST NIGHT IN THE CARIBBEAN. THE A.P. CABLE THEN WENT ON TO SAY: THE INFORMANT DESCRIBED THE SHIP AS A CUBAN-FLAG VESSEL CARRYING SUGAR TO A COMMUNIST COUNTRY, BUT HAD NO INFORMATION ON THE RESULTS OF THE ATTACK.

NOW PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THIS, BECAUSE WHAT FOLLOWS IS THE MOST INTERESTING PART OF MONDAY'S A.P. CABLE: THERE WAS SPECULATION HERE THAT THE COMMANDOS MAY HAVE STRUCK AT A SPANISH FREIGHTER. TWENTY CREW MEMBERS OF THE SPANISH FREIGHTER SIERRA ARANZAZU WERE PICKED UP TODAY. THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE WORD ON THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE.

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